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Serial No.: 10/527,467

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 12-14 as indicated in the Listing of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) A diverter switch for branching off
2 bulk-material flows, having a rotary plug (1) disposed in a
3 stationary housing (2) having three connecting openings (4, 5, 6)
4 said rotary plug and housing providing a first position
5 connecting a first connecting-opening pair (4, 5) a second
6 position, connecting a second connecting-opening pair (4, 6), and
7 a gap (10) disposed between said rotary plug (1) and said housing
8 wherein the improvement comprises a rotary plug (1) and/or
9 housing (2) having at least one labyrinth seal arrangement (7),
10 having ~~at least one~~ a labyrinth seal groove (8, 9), ~~wherein the~~
11 ~~labyrinth seal groove (8) of~~ comprised of a plurality of seal
12 grooves disposed on the rotary plug (1) ~~is arranged largely~~

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~~13 continuously around at least one opening of a through channel (3)~~
~~14 and is axially displaced from an end of said through channel,~~
~~15 and/or in that the labyrinth seal groove (9) of the housing (2)~~
16 is arranged largely continuously and a plurality of seal grooves
17 disposed around at least one of the connecting openings (4, 5, 6)
~~18 and is axially or radially displaced from an end of a connecting~~
~~19 opening of said housing in said housing (2).~~

1 2. (Currently amended) The diverter switch according to
2 Claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein said plurality of ~~labyrinth~~
3 seal grooves (8, 9) are arranged next to one another.

1 3. (Original) The diverter switch according to claim 1 or 2
2 further comprising at least one feed opening (12) for a feed
3 channel for feeding a gap fluid into the gap (10) between rotary
4 plug (1) and housing (2).

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1 4. (Original) The diverter switch according to claim 1 or 2
2 further comprising a feed opening (12) in the labyrinth seal
3 groove (8, 9).

1 5. (Currently amended) The diverter switch according to
2 claim 1 or 2 further comprising means for insuring the pressure
3 of ~~the~~ a gap fluid is greater than a pressure of ~~the~~ a conveying
4 fluid.

1 6. (Currently amended) The diverter switch according to
2 claim 1 or 2 wherein the composition of ~~the~~ a gap fluid is
3 substantially the same as the composition of ~~the~~ a conveying
4 fluid.

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1 7. (Original) The diverter switch according to claim 1 or
2 2 wherein the maximum width (W) of the gap (10) is smaller than
3 or equal to five-tenths of a millimetre ($W \leq 5/10$ mm).

1 8. (Original) The diverter switch of claim 1 or 2 wherein
2 the maximum width (W) of the gap 10 is smaller than or equal to
3 three-tenths of a millimetre ($W \leq 3/10$ mm).

1 9. (Currently amended) A fluid diverter device
2 comprising:

3 (a) a housing having a plurality of through channels and a
4 seat for a rotatable plug;

5 (b) a rotatable plug disposed in said seat selectively
6 rotatably interconnecting at least one of said plurality of
7 through channels;

8 (c) a labyrinth seal having a plurality of sealing grooves
9 ~~displaced axially or radially from an end of one of said~~
10 ~~plurality of through channels and disposed between said housing~~

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11 ~~and on said rotatable plug and a plurality of sealing grooves~~
12 disposed in said seat for said rotatable plug; and
13 (d) a fluid gap seal disposed intermediate said
14 housing and said rotatable plug in communication with said ~~at~~
15 ~~least one seal groove~~ plurality of sealing grooves of said
16 labyrinth seal.

1 10. (Original) The fluid diverter of claim 9 further
2 comprising at least one feed channel in communication with said
3 fluid gap seal.

1 11. (Original) The fluid diverter of claim 10 further
2 comprising means for increasing the pressure of the gap fluid to
3 a pressure greater than the conveying fluid.

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1 12. (Currently amended) The fluid diverter of claim 9
2 wherein said plurality of grooves ~~are~~ disposed on said rotatable
3 plug ~~and are disposed on said plurality of channels housing are~~
4 concentrically arranged.

1 13. (Currently amended) The fluid diverter of claim 12
2 wherein said plurality of grooves disposed on said rotatable plug
3 and said plurality of grooves disposed ~~on~~ in said ~~housing~~ seat
4 are concentrically staggered.

1 14. (Currently amended) A fluid device for diverting
2 fluids comprising:

3 (a) a housing having a plurality of through channels and a
4 seat for a rotatable plug;

5 (b) a rotatable plug disposed in said seat selectively

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6 rotatably interconnecting at least two of said plurality of
7 through channels;

8 (c) a labyrinth seal having a plurality of concentric
9 grooves disposed ~~in~~ on said rotatable plug ~~or~~ and in said seat
10 around at least one opening of said plurality of through
11 channels, said plurality of concentric grooves being axially or
12 radially displaced from at least one end of said plurality of
13 through channels on said rotatable plug and in said seat being
14 concentrically staggered;

15 (d) a fluid gap seal disposed in said seat for said
16 rotatable plug or in said rotatable plug; and

17 (e) a fluid feed channel communicating with said fluid gap
18 seal.